

PATENT SPECIFICATION

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(54) PERFUME DISPENSER

(71) I, GIRAIR HAGOP ALTICO-SALIAN, a British Subject of 27 Beaufort Road, Ealing, London, W.5, do hereby declare the invention, for which I pray that a patent may be granted to me, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

The present invention relates to a perfume dispenser and more particularly to a perfume dispenser which enables any of a plurality of different liquid perfumes to be selected or to be selectively mixed prior to being dispensed, whereby a plurality of different perfume fragrances can be obtained from the dispenser, as desired.

According to the present invention, a perfume dispenser comprises a holder for holding a plurality of perfume containers each containing a liquid perfume of a different fragrance, a selector device which, when the plurality of containers are located in the holder, enables liquid perfume from any one or from a combination or combinations of the containers to be selected for dispensing through an outlet of the dispenser and an actuating means operable to cause the release of a quantity of the selected liquid perfume or perfumes into a mixing chamber and from said chamber to said outlet.

Preferably the selector device is a rotatable member which is rotatable relative to the holder and thereby enables selection to be achieved by rotation of the member to different predetermined positions.

The actuating means may comprise a series of projections, such as pegs, which may be operated, e.g. by a push-button, so as to actuate an outlet valve on one or more perfume containers, dependent upon the selection made, so as to release liquid perfume from the selected container or containers via the mixing chamber for ejection as a spray or mist from the outlet of the dispenser.

According to one embodiment of the invention, the selector device is combined

with the actuating means in the form of a rotatable push-button which is rotated to effect the desired selection and which is provided with a peripheral flange carrying the pegs or other projections. Thus, when the push-button is depressed, the appropriate one or ones of the pegs or projections is also depressed to engage with the outlet valves of the selected container or containers to cause the selected perfume or perfumes to be dispensed.

Advantageously the mixing chamber is located below the push-button and is connected by passages to the outlet valve of each of said containers and also to the outlet of the dispenser, in the form of a nozzle carried by a wall of the holder. The connection between each tubular passage and the outlet valve of a container may be effected by means of a union member attached both to the adjacent end of the tubular passage and fitted over the outlet valve.

The invention will now be further described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of one embodiment of perfume dispenser according to the invention,

Fig. 2 is an exploded view, partly in section, of the perfume dispenser shown in Fig. 1 but in which only one perfume container has been shown for the sake of clarity, and

Fig. 3 is a view of a portion of the perfume dispenser of Fig. 2 showing certain of the parts in assembled relationship.

Referring to the drawings, particularly Fig. 1, a perfume dispenser generally indicated at 1 comprises a holder 2, which may be moulded from a plastics material, and which is adapted to hold and locate a plurality of pressurised containers for liquid perfume essences; three such containers A, B and C being shown in this embodiment. It will however be understood that the dispenser may be designed to incorporate only two such containers, or may

incorporate more than three such containers, as desired. The perfume containers are of a type well-known in the art which contain a liquid perfume essence under pressure and incorporate a pressure-operated outlet valve which, when it is pressed, causes a spray or mist of a perfume essence contained therein to be ejected through the outlet valve. The containers A, B and C are mounted in the lower part of the holder 2 in the manner described in detail later on. A push-button 3 projects through an aperture in an annular portion 2a forming the upper surface of the holder 2. This push-button carries an arrow 5, or similar reference mark, and the annular portion 2a carries a plurality of markings 4, (which could be numerals or letters in practice) representing different perfume fragrances which can be dispensed from the perfume dispenser. By rotating the push-button to bring the arrow 5 opposite a marking 4 representing a selected perfume fragrance, and then depressing the push-button, the selected perfume fragrance is caused to be ejected as a mist or spray through the outlet nozzle 6 in the side wall of the holder 2.

The construction and manner of operation of the dispenser will now be described in greater detail with reference to Figs. 2 and 3. The lower portion of the holder 2 is provided with three cylindrical recesses 7 located below a partition wall 8, each of which recesses is adapted to receive the upper portion of one of the perfume containers A, B or C. To this end each recess is provided with peripheral projections 7a which can engage behind inclined cam surfaces 9a provided on a sleeve 9 fitted around the upper portion of each perfume container. A perfume container is held in its recess 7 by pushing it into the recess so that the projections 7a pass through the gaps 9b between the cam surfaces 9a and then rotating the container so that the projections 7a engage the cam surfaces 9a and locate and lock the container in the recess. In this position, the outlet 12 of the pressure valve on each container projects through a hole 10 in the partition above the associated recess 7, so that the three pressure valve outlets 12 are located in an upper compartment 11 formed in the holder. This compartment accommodates a central mixing chamber 13 from which radially extend three equiangularly spaced flexible tubes 14 each defining a hollow passage 15 communicating with the mixing chamber and which are attached at their outer ends to a union member 16. The union members are shaped so as to fit over the outlets 12 of the pressure valves of the respective containers A, B and C. A further tube 17,

forming an outlet from the mixing chamber connects the mixing chamber with the outlet nozzle 6 located in an aperture 6a in the side wall of the holder 2.

The mixing chamber 13 is provided with a base part 18 which closes off the chamber 13, which is moulded from a plastics material. Preferably most of the other parts of the dispenser are also formed as mouldings of a plastics material.

The upper surface of the holder 2 is formed by an annular portion or cap 2a having a central aperture 19 through which projects the push-button 3 which is provided with a peripheral flange 3a located below the cap 2a. The push-button 3 is hollow and receives the upper end of a compression spring 20 whose lower end rests on top of the mixing chamber 13. The lower surface of the flange 3a of the push-button is provided with a series of downwardly directed peg-like projections 21 formed integrally therewith as part of the moulding of plastics material. Seven such pegs 21 are provided in this embodiment and are so spaced around the periphery of the flange 3a that the rotation of the push-button 3 to align the arrow 5 thereon with any of the different predetermined positions defined by the markings 4 of the cap 2a positions a different one or combination of the pegs 21 to engage with one or more of the union members 16.

The dispenser as described incorporates the three containers A, B and C each containing a liquid perfume essence of a different fragrance which can be selectively dispensed from the dispenser. Also, any combination of the three basic essences can be dispensed, thereby giving an overall choice of seven different perfume fragrances which can be obtained from the dispenser. Thus, the dispenser can be operated to dispense fragrance A, fragrance B, or fragrance C, fragrance A + B, fragrance A + C, fragrance B + C or fragrance A + B + C.

The manner in which the dispenser operates to achieve this result will now be described. Firstly, as described above, the user rotates the push-button 3 so as to bring the arrow 5 opposite the reference mark 4 corresponding to the selected fragrance, which may be one of the basic perfume essences or a combination of such essences. However, let it be assumed that this is the perfume essence from container B. The rotation of the push-button to this position will bring the peg 21 corresponding to this selected fragrance over the union member 16 connected to the outlet 12 of the pressure valve of container B. In this position, the remaining pegs will not be located over either of the other union members 16. When the push-button 3 is

pressed against the action of the spring 20, the operative peg will bear down on the union member thereby flexing the associated tube 14 and depressing the pressure valve of container B to allow the perfume essence therein to be released through the passage 15 in the associated tube 14, through the mixing chamber 13 and outlet passage 17 and ejected from the nozzle 6 of the dispenser as a spray or mist. When the push-button is released the pressure on the outlet valve of container B ceases and delivery of the perfume essence stops. If the push-button is now rotated to select another fragrance, e.g. that corresponding to the combination of the essences in containers A and C, the pegs 21 corresponding to this selection are brought over the union members 16 connected to the outlet valves of the containers A and C. When the push-button 3 is pressed, these union members will be depressed to operate the valves of these containers to release the perfume essences therefrom into the mixing chamber 13 where they will combine and pass through the outlet passage 17 to the outlet nozzle 6 of the dispenser. Similarly rotation of the push-button to any of the other positions causes operation of the outlet valve of each selected container either alone or in combination to dispense the selected fragrance from the dispenser. As soon as the pressure on the push-button 3 is released, the outlet valve of the container or containers which have been operative is automatically closed and the union members 16 are returned to their normal position.

Where essences from two or more containers are mixed, since they are released into the mixing chamber at the same time, the fragrance resulting from the combination of these essences is virtually consistent. It will of course be appreciated that the three basic essences in the containers A, B and C must have fragrances which when combined together also produce acceptable perfume fragrances.

It will be clear that, if desired, the markings 4 representing the different fragrances may be marked on the rotatable push-button 3 and the reference mark 5 may be marked on the annular portion 2a.

Whilst particular embodiments have been described, it will be understood that various modifications may be made without departing from the scope of this invention as defined in the claims.

WHAT I CLAIM IS:—

1. A perfume dispenser comprising a holder for holding a plurality of perfume containers, each containing a liquid perfume of a different fragrance, a selector device which, when the plurality of

containers are located in the holder, enables liquid perfume from any one or from a combination or combinations of the containers to be selected for dispensing through an outlet of the dispenser and an actuating means operable to cause the release of a quantity of the selected liquid perfume or perfumes into a mixing chamber and from said chamber to said outlet.

2. A perfume dispenser as claimed in claim 1, in which the selector device is a rotatable member which is rotatable relative to the holder and thereby enables selection to be achieved by rotation of the member to different predetermined positions.

3. A perfume dispenser as claimed in claim 1 or 2, in which the actuating means comprises a series of projections which may be operated so as to actuate an outlet valve on one or more perfume containers, dependent upon the selection made, so as to release liquid perfume from the selected container or containers via the mixing chamber as a spray or mist from the outlet of the dispenser.

4. A perfume dispenser as claimed in claim 3, in which the actuating means is operated by a push-button.

5. A perfume dispenser as claimed in claim 4, in which the selector device is combined with the actuating means in the form of a rotatable push-button which is rotated to effect the desired selection and which is provided with a region carrying the said projections, whereby when the push-button is depressed, the appropriate one or ones of the projections is also depressed to engage with the outlet valve or valves of the selected container or containers to cause the selected perfume or perfumes to be dispensed.

6. A perfume dispenser as claimed in claim 4 or 5, wherein the mixing chamber is located below the push-button and is connected by passages to the outlet valve of each of the said containers and also to the outlet of the dispenser in the form of a nozzle carried by the holder.

7. A perfume dispenser as claimed in claim 6, in which the connection between each passage and the outlet valve of the associated container is effected by means of a union member attached both to the adjacent end of the passage and fitted over the outlet valve and which can be engaged by a projection, depending upon the angular position of the push-button.

8. A perfume dispenser as claimed in claim 6 or 7, in which a compression spring is disposed between the mixing chamber and the push-button to maintain said push-button in its rest position with said projections spaced from the outlet valves of the containers.

9. A perfume dispenser as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the holder is provided with a plurality of cylindrical recesses each adapted to receive a said container and wherein each recess is provided with means for locking the container in position in the recess. 30
10. A perfume dispenser as claimed in claim 9, wherein the locking means comprise peripheral projections on the wall of the recess which can engage with a cam surface provided on a sleeve fitted around the upper portion of the associated container whereby rotation of the container relative to its recess serves to lock it in position. 35
11. A perfume dispenser as claimed in claim 9 or 10, in which the recesses are located below a partition within the holder, provided with an aperture opposite each recess through which can project the valve member of a container. 40
12. A perfume dispenser as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein markings representing the different perfume fragrances which can be dispensed are provided on one part of the dispenser and a reference mark is provided on another part of the dispenser and relative rotation may be effected between said two parts to bring the reference mark opposite any of the markings so as to define said predetermined positions. 45
13. A perfume dispenser as claimed in claim 12, as dependent on any of claims 6 to 11, wherein said markings are provided on the holder and the reference mark is provided on the push-button.
14. A perfume dispenser as claimed in any preceding claim, adapted to receive three different containers each containing a different fragrance perfume essence.
15. A perfume dispenser as claimed in any preceding claim, in combination with a plurality of containers containing a different fragrance perfume essence.
16. A perfume dispenser substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.
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